

THE UNITED STATES MINT
PRESENTS

THE 1992 SILVER PROOF SET



200 YEARS OF CRAFTING EXCELLENCE



REINTRODUCING AN OLD FAVORITE



1964 Proof Coin Set

It's back! The United States Mint is issuing the beloved silver proof set again for the first time since 1964. At that time, due to increasing industrial demand, the Coinage Act of 1965 eliminated silver in the dime and quarter, and reduced it to 40% in the half dollar. It was eliminated altogether in the half dollar in 1971. This resulted in the adoption of cupro-nickel clad coins, and the silver proof set was never issued again.

Until now! On November 15, 1990, Public Law 101-585, was enacted authorizing the Mint to produce silver coin proof sets for sale to the public. Now you can own an old favorite, the Silver Proof Set, once again.

TWO PRODUCTS – THE SAME, BUT DIFFERENT!

Although the coins in both sets are identical, the United States Mint's unique packaging makes the difference.

1992 SILVER PROOF SET —

The United States Mint is pleased to offer the new collector's set of silver proof coins. Produced at the San Francisco Mint, and bearing the "S" mint mark, they are identical in every way to our annual Proof Coin Set, except that the packaging is jet black, and the dime, quarter and half-dollar are "coin silver." Coin silver, which contains 90% silver, has been the standard alloy for America's silver coinage since 1837. This product is perfect for the numismatic collector. The size is compact and convenient for storage of multiple sets.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

We are pleased to offer both the 1992 Silver Proof Set and the 1992 Premier Silver Proof Set to you at a special introductory discount. For a limited time, from now until midnight on June 30, 1992, you may purchase the Silver Proof Set for only \$18.00, and the Premier Silver Proof Set for only \$29.50. After that, the prices will increase to \$21.00 and \$37.00 respectively.

1992 PREMIER SILVER PROOF SET —

The 1992 Premier Silver Proof Set makes a perfect gift for any occasion. Silver signifies good taste and intrinsic value, hallmarks of those special gifts we cherish for a lifetime. So we have endeavored in every way possible to produce a package that conveys beauty, quality and refinement to complement these precision-crafted silver proof coins. Lined in elegant white satin and enhanced with gleaming silvery accents, the rich, black velvet presentation case comes in a leather-grained black outer box with a parchment Certificate of Authenticity.

A UNIQUE AND THOUGHTFUL GIFT IDEA

Remember, for birthdays, anniversaries (especially a silver wedding anniversary!), christenings, year-end holidays — or just a special memento for yourself — the 1992 Silver Proof Set is a unique and meaningful keepsake. Order now at the special introductory discount price and satisfy your gift-giving needs for the entire year.



1992 Silver Proof Coin Set
Introductory Discount
Price \$18.00



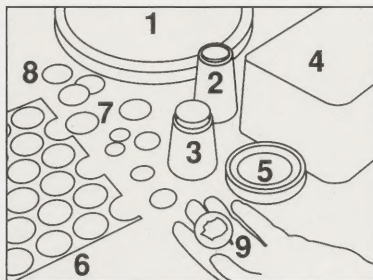
1992 Premier Silver Proof Set
Introductory Discount
Price \$ 29.50



This case is designed for upright display. It is pictured with the lid open for illustration only.

ORDER NOW! THE SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY DISCOUNT PRICE ENDS JUNE 30.

THE MINTER'S TOOLS



1. Quarter obverse plaster
2. Half dollar die blank
3. Half dollar obverse proof die
4. Ingot of .999 fine silver
5. Ceramic scorifier for assaying coin silver
6. Blanking strip
7. Blank
8. Planchet
9. Finished proof half dollar

HOW TO ORDER

To order the 1992 Silver Proof Set and the 1992 Premier Silver Proof Set, please fill in the order form personalized with your name and customer number and place it with your remittance in the return envelope provided for your convenience.

If you have a question about your order, please contact:



Customer Service Center
United States Mint
10001 Aerospace Road
Lanham, Maryland 20706
(301) 436-7400

Our staff is available Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM, Eastern Time. We ask that you do not contact any other Mint facility, as these are primarily production facilities and are not equipped to handle your inquiries as effectively as the Customer Service Center.

United States Mint numismatic programs are self-supporting. All proceeds from sales, after reimbursement for costs, are deposited to the General Fund of the United States Treasury.

DESIGNED AND PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

THE COMPLEX CRAFTING OF PROOF COINS



From the beginning of our coinage history, proof coins have been the apex of the minter's craft. Produced originally as "proof" of the coinability of new designs, these exceptional coins, known then as "Master Coins," were saved for the Mint's own collection or for presentation at special occasions. Around 1858 the first proof coins were offered for sale to the public.

Producing proof coins is a far more exacting and labor intensive process than one might expect. To begin, a Mint engraver painstakingly models plastilene, a type of clay, to produce the plaster. This requires great skill as the artist must create a realistic, clear, three-dimensional image with a relief of only about $3/16$ " within which to work. After the plaster is finished, a hard epoxy is made and placed on a reducing machine.

A reducing machine is much

like an artist's pantograph in that the epoxy's large image is reduced in scale. The process appears similar to a needle on a phonograph — the tracer reads the image on the epoxy and translates it over the course of about three days through millions of high-speed revolutions of the cutter into the "master hub," a miniature steel reproduction of the epoxy. After the engraver touches up the positive-image master hub, it is furnace hardened and then impressed into a softened steel die blank, a process called "hubbing," to create the negative-image "master die." The same process is then used to make the work hub and work dies.

Up to this point, the making of an uncirculated or proof coin is quite similar. Proof dies, however, receive unique and special treatment. Each work die is textured with a mixture of fine

(over please)

sand and glass beads to create the softly frosted image. The area of the die that forms the background is then carefully polished by hand to create the characteristic mirror-like quality of proof coins. Each work die is then electroplated with chromium to resist wear. Even so, only about 1,000 coins can be made from each proof work die. One quickly realizes how busy the Mint die makers must be!

Meanwhile, the blanks are being made. In the case of the new Silver Proof Set coins, silver ingots are melted, alloyed with copper to improve their durability and assayed to ensure that the composition is "coin silver" — 90% silver and 10% copper. The new alloyed "billets" are then rolled into long, thin sheets, or "strips," from which circular "blanks" are punched. The blanks are then "upset," which forms an elevated rim around the edge, helping to pre-form the blank.

Next, the blanks are heated in an annealing furnace. This process softens the metal so that when it is

struck into a coin, it receives the image more readily. The blanks are then cleaned, burnished, dried and stored. Just before they are struck, they are dipped in an acidic brightening agent and carefully rinsed and dried. Ready for striking into a coin, the blank is now called a "planchet."

In the coining press room, again special care is taken with every proof coin the Mint produces. Each planchet is placed into a reeded collar (or smooth, for nickels and cents) where it is struck, at least twice, with roughly 100 tons per square inch of thunderous pressure. The flow of the metal in the striking process hardens it, helping it to resist damage. The gleaming new coins are then placed in trays to await careful, individual inspection by Mint personnel. If they meet the Mint's stringent standards, the coins are placed by white-gloved hands into specially designed display cases which are ultrasonically sealed to ensure the set's integrity.



To inquire about the purchase of U.S. Mint products, or to place a name on the mailing list for future product announcements, please contact:

Customer Service Center, United States Mint
10001 Aerospace Road, Lanham, MD 20706
(301) 436-7400

Business hours are Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM, Eastern Time

A
MESSAGE
FROM THE
UNITED
STATES
MINT



DEPARTMENT
OF THE
TREASURY
UNITED STATES
MINT
WASHINGTON
D.C. 20220

Dear United States Mint Customer,

In November 1990 Congress authorized the Mint to produce proof coin sets in silver for sale to the public. The United States Mint is proud to once again offer the Silver Proof Set for the first time since 1964.

We have endeavored to produce the finest, most elegantly presented silver proof coin set ever. In addition, we are proudly offering not one, but two selections — the **1992 Silver Proof Set** and the **1992 Premier Silver Proof Set**. Although the coins in both sets are identical, the two styles of packaging will suit different needs.

The 1992 Silver Proof Set is packaged just like our annual Proof Set, but in black instead of purple. The 1992 Premier Silver Proof Set is framed in an elegant white satin and black velvet presentation case. Each Premier Silver Proof Set comes with a parchment Certificate of Authenticity.

The 1992 Silver Proof Coins will make a splendid addition to any coin collection as well as an impressive gift for someone you love. You'll want to buy them for your personal collection and as gifts for birthdays, christenings, weddings and anniversaries, as well as for the year-end holidays. What could be a more appropriate keepsake for a silver wedding anniversary?

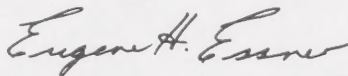
Until the end of June, you'll be able to buy the Silver Proof Set for only \$18 and the deluxe Premier Silver Proof Set for \$29.50.

(over, please)

After this limited offer, prices will be \$21 and \$37 respectively. Take advantage of our limited offer period and fulfill your gift-giving needs for all of 1992!

I am especially pleased to inaugurate this exceptional product during the United States Mint's Bicentennial. The 1992 Silver Proof Set is an impressive way to celebrate two hundred years of crafting excellence. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you, our valued customer, for your loyal support and commitment over the years.

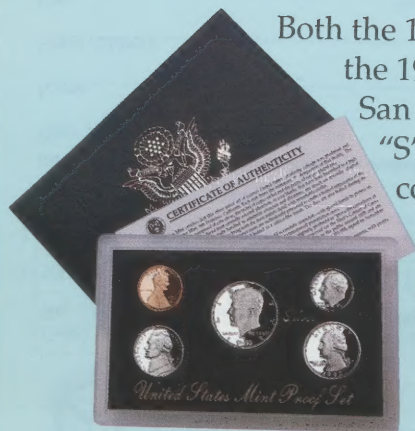
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eugene H. Essner". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent "E" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

Eugene H. Essner
Deputy Director
United States Mint

*An Old Favorite,
Reintroduced by the United States Mint*
THE 1992 SILVER PROOF SET





Both the 1992 Silver Proof Set and the deluxe version, the 1992 Premier Silver Proof Set, are produced at the San Francisco Mint and bear that facility's "S" mint mark. Of the five coins contained in each set, the Roosevelt Dime, Washington Quarter, and Kennedy Half Dollar are 90% silver.

